ATLAS

KID COLT OUTLAW

BLAZING ADVENTURES OF THE WILD WEST!

KID COLT OUTLAW

OCT. NO. 31

10¢

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

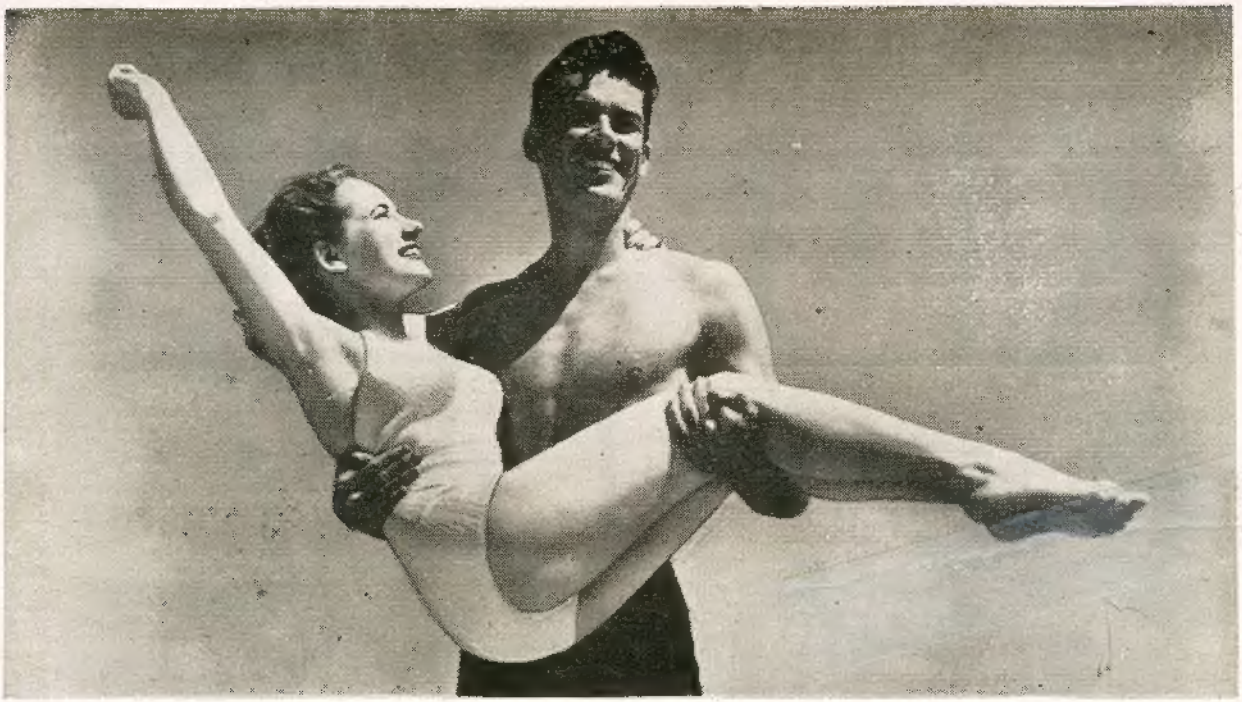
ALL THE FIGHTING FURY OF THE OLD WEST!

"BATTLE SMOKE!"

"THE AVENGER!"

"THE CHALLENGE!"

ON SALE MONTHLY



Skinny Girls Don't Have OOMPH!

It takes those extra lbs. of solid flesh to "bring out" your natural curves

If you're otherwise healthy but skinny, scrawny, rundown and lbs. underweight, try correcting this common mistake in eating.

THERE are three essential substances that many thin, scrawny and undernourished girls may fail to get in sufficient quantity from the food they eat. These substances are Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron. If, like thousands of others, you are underweight without organic cause . . . never seem to gain a pound . . . are so thin that you look gangling and gawky from insufficient amounts of these precious elements, don't get discouraged.

You may find that by correcting this simple mistake in eating you can easily add firm solid flesh . . . extra alluring pounds that help bring out those natural eye-catching curves. A simple and easy way is to try the amazing new product called Numal that supplies, in significant amounts, the Vitamin B_1, calcium phosphate and iron needed in the daily diet. Plus a food that in itself is a great help in adding extra pounds.

Take 1 heaping teaspoonful of Numal 3 times a day. It is pleasant, assimilable and easy to take. You will get the equivalent in Vitamin B_1 content of 34 cakes of average moist baker's yeast . . . the iron equivalent of 15 pounds of tomatoes or 1⅔ pounds of spinach or 9 pounds of boiled beets...and the calcium equivalent of ⅘ths pint of fresh cow's milk, the phosphorus content of 1 glass.

Remember, if you don't get a sufficient quantity of Vitamin B_1 in your daily diet, you may suffer loss of appetite. And without sufficient iron, the element that helps build rich red blood, you may be rundown, pale, weak and listless. You need calcium phosphate for sound teeth and sturdy bones.

SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

. . . a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social or business life. Give NUMAL a chance to build you up, put firm flesh on you.

Numal Must Please You or No Cost

So if you are skinny, gangling and bony from lack of these precious nutrients, don't wait any longer. Get Numal today. You will want those extra pounds that "bring out" your natural eye-catching curves. Take Numal faithfully for a week. See if you can't actually feel the difference . . . gain weight and better color. If after this short period you honestly don't feel Numal has benefited you, just return the bottle for a complete refund of your money. Numal costs but a few cents a day to use.

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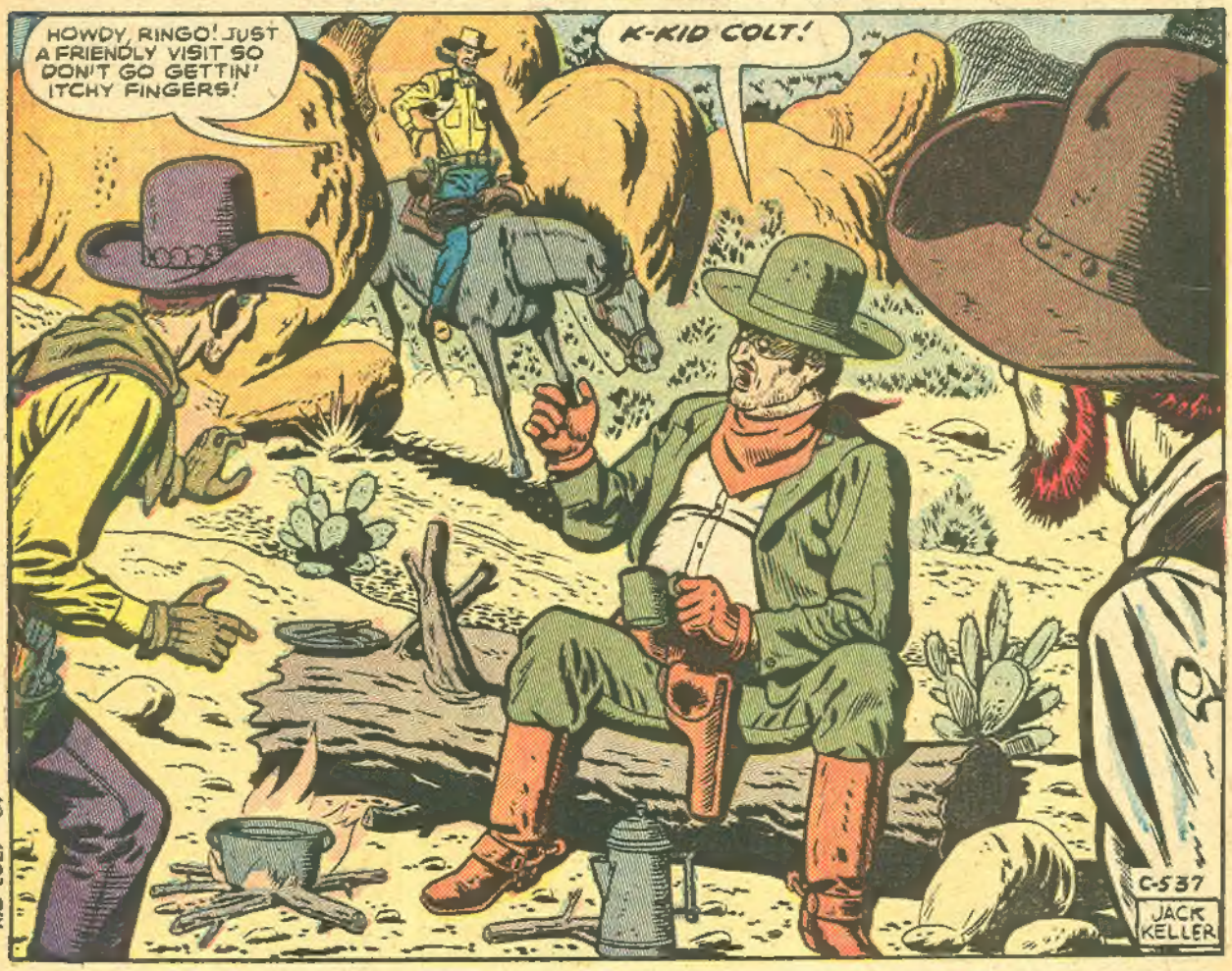
KID COLT OUTLAW



WHAT DO YOU WANT, COLT? TALK FAST!
I RAN OUT OF WATER AN' FIGGERED MEBBE YOU BOYS HAD SOME TO SPARE! EVERY SPRING IN THE DESERT IS DRY! HOW ABOUT IT, RINGO?

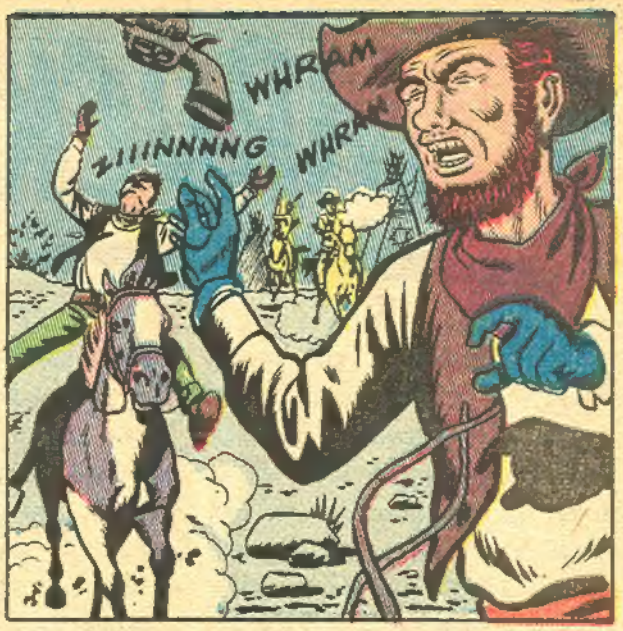
FOR A WHILE I FIGGERED MEBBE YOU WERE JUST HANKERIN' AFTER A GUN FIGHT TO GET IN TRIM!
DON'T LET MY REPUTATION SCARE YUH, RINGO! WHEN A MAN HAS TO PRACTICE DRAWIN', HE MIGHT JUST AS WELL THROW HIS GUNS AWAY! I'M ALWAYS IN TRIM!
YOU GOT PLENTY OF WATER, RINGO!
WE MOSEY AROUND THE DESERT QUITE A BIT AN' ALWAYS CARRY AN EXTRY SUPPLY!
THANKS, RINGO! MEBBE SOME-DAY I CAN RETURN THE FAVOR!
DON'T BOTHER! ALWAYS GLAD TO DO A GUN-TOTER A FAVOR!
LATER...
GUESS IT'S TIME TO WET OUR GULLETS, STEEL! WE GOT ENOUGH HERE TO LAST US TILL WE GET TO SILVER CITY!
PTHEWW! WHISKEY!!
OKAY, RINGO! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN A RATTLER'S FANGS AIN'T MEANT TO SPEW FANCY WORDS! WE'LL MEET AGAIN... SOON!
2

MEANWHILE...
LUKE, YOU RIDE TO THE HIDEOUT AN' MEET ZACK! WAIT THERE TILL WE GET BACK FROM OUR TALK WITH THE LAND AGENT!
OKAY! BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG! WE CAN'T HIDE THAT MULE TRAIN FULL OF ROTGUT FOREVER!
AN HOUR LATER...
SO YOU FIGGER THEM MANGY INJUNS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR CATTLE, EH?
IT AIN'T THAT, RINGO! WE GOT AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMANCHES! IT'S THEIR LAND AND WE CANIT GIVE IT AWAY!
MARK CARTER LAND AGENT
MY CATTLE AIN'T STARVIN' WHILE THEM INJUNS SQUAT ON A THOUSAND ACRES OF GOOD PASTURE!
RINGO, YOU AIN'T GOT NO CATTLE TO GRAZE...UNLESS YOU'RE PLANNING TO RUSTLE SOME!
THERE'S THE CHASER TO THAT HARD-TASTIN' WATER YOU GAVE ME!
AND THERE'S LEAD IN YOUR EYE, THURMAN!
WHRAM

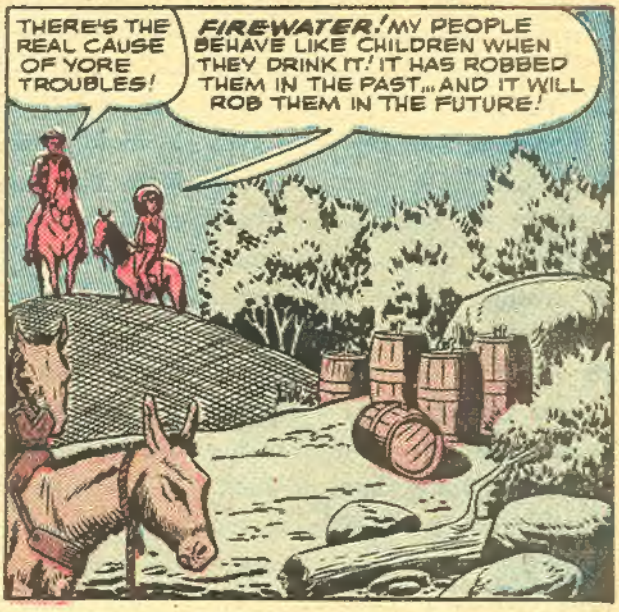
VAMOS, YOU MANGY POLECATS!
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, COLT, WE'LL DRINK A TOAST... TO YORE MEMORY!
YOU BETTER BE MAKIN' TRACKS BEFORE THE LAW GETS HERE, COLT! I'D HATE TO SEE YOU SWING AFTER WHAT YOU DID FOR ME!
YOU BETTER SAVE YORE WORRYIN' FER THEM COYOTES! YOU AIN'T SEEN THE LAST OF THEM!
ALL RIGHT NOW! LINE UP THAT PACK TRAIN AN' LET'S RIDE! WE'RE MOVIN' INTO COMANCHE TERRITORY!
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
FILL 'ER UP AGAIN, BOYS! DRINK HEARTY! THAR'S PLENTY MORE WHAR THAT CAME FROM!
BETTER EASE OFF NOW TILL WE GET OUR DEEDS SIGNED!
YEAH! THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING! ALL THEY'LL HAVE IN THE MORNING WILL BE BIG HEADS AND NO LAND!
CRAZED BY THE FIERY POISON, THE REDSKINS GALLOPED AWAY LADEN WITH GIFTS WHICH WILL INFECT THEIR RED BROTHERS...
ADIOS, AN' SPREAD THE WORD AROUND THAT YORE WHITE BROTHERS GOT ENOUGH FIRE-WATER FER ALL OF THEM!
EEYIEEEEEEE!
WE'RE IN BUSINESS, BOYS! LET'S GO BACK TO TOWN AN' REGISTER THESE DEEDS!

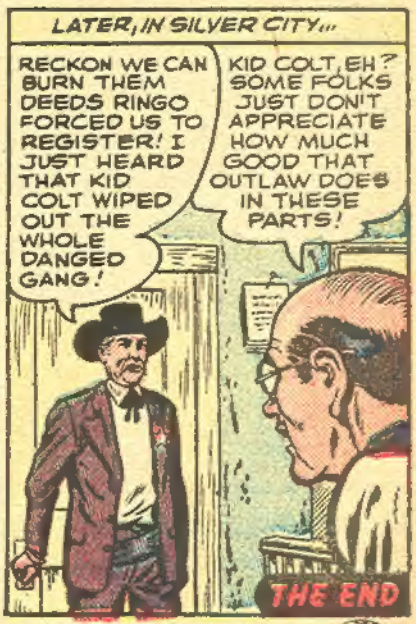
MEANWHILE..
COMANCHE BRAVES.. AN' THEY'RE ACTIN' PLUMB LOCO!
THEY AIN'T EVEN STOPPIN' FER THOSE TWO THAT FELL! SOMETHING'S MIGHTY WRONG! THAT AIN'T LIKE A COMANCHE!
CRAZY DRUNK! I'LL BET A CART-WHEEL I KNOW WHERE THEY GOT THAT POISON!
AND AS DUSK FELL AMONG THE PURPLE HILLS...
BAD MEDICINE HAS FALLEN ON OUR PEOPLE! SEE, A WHITE MAN BRINGS TWO MORE OF OUR SHAMED WARRIORS!
NOW, CHIEF WAR CLOUD! I COME AS A FRIEND WITH TWO WARRIORS I FOUND ON THE PLAINS!
MY EYES ARE GETTING OLD! I DID NOT RECOGNIZE OUR FRIEND! LEAVE THEM AND COME WITH ME TO THE COUNCIL TENT, WHITE BROTHER!
THE WHITE MAN'S FIREWATER HAS ROBBED MY BRAVES OF REASON! ALREADY MANY OF THEM TALK OF MAKING WAR WITH THE WHITE MEN! THEY ARE SODDEN WITH DRINK AND DO NOT HEED MY VOICE!
IF YOU CAN ROUND UP THE WILD ONES, MEBBE WE CAN STOP THEM FROM INFECTING THE OTHERS!
MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL TENT...
YOU HEARD ME! YOU GOT ONE HOUR TO PACK YORE TRASH AN LEAVE! THIS IS OUR LAND AN' WE'VE GOT THE DEEDS SIGNED BY YORE OWN PEOPLE!
5

I HAVE NOT SIGNED AWAY THE LAND OF MY FOREFATHERS! LEAVE, OR I ORDER MY BRAVES TO USE FORCE!
YORE BRAVES WON'T BE DOIN' MUCH FIGHTIN' TILL THEY GET BACK THEIR HEADS AN' THEIR LEGS! TAKE OVER, MEN!
WHRAM!
TURN, RINGO! I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GOIN' TO GET!
YOU AGAIN!
THE HEAVY COLTS JERKED AND THUNDERED OUT TWO STACCATO CLAPS OF DEATH...
WHRAM!
WHRAM!
WHRAM
CRACK
CRACK
WHRAM
BANG
WHRAM
WHRAM
6



I AM GRATEFUL TO MY WHITE BROTHER FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE!
I'M NOT FINISHED YET, CHIEF! YOU RECKON YOU CAN RIDE A WAY OUT OF CAMP WITH ME?


THERE'S THE REAL CAUSE OF YORE TROUBLES!
FIREWATER! MY PEOPLE BEHAVE LIKE CHILDREN WHEN THEY DRINK IT! IT HAS ROBBED THEM IN THE PAST... AND IT WILL ROB THEM IN THE FUTURE!


LATER, IN SILVER CITY...
RECKON WE CAN BURN THEM DEEDS RINGO FORCED US TO REGISTER! I JUST HEARD THAT KID COLT WIPED OUT THE WHOLE DANGED GANG!
KID COLT, EH? SOME FOLKS JUST DON'T APPRECIATE HOW MUCH GOOD THAT OUTLAW DOES IN THESE PARTS!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WESTERN THRILLS LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

RIMROCK INCIDENT

IT was Sunday. A quiet peaceful morning in Rimrock.

The kid — all of eighteen years old — rode down Main Street on a palomino mare, and he wore a bandana on his face — up to his eyes. He held the reins with one hand, and carried a sixgun, resting on his thigh, with the other. He was heading for the bank.

The citizens of the town were in church.

When he reached the front of First City Bank of Rimrock, he swung out of the saddle, made the mistake of hitching his horse to the post, and unloaded the dynamite from his saddle-bags. He stood on the boardwalk for a moment, looking around, as if disappointed that no one was around to witness his first robbery. He shrugged his shoulders and proceeded to blast open the front door.

At the other end of town, the church-goers heard the dynamite go off.

"What's that?"

"Earthquake! We'll be destroyed!"

The sheriff called two of his deputys. "Tal! Jenks! Sounds like trouble. Let's go." The three men raced outside, mounted quickly, and whipped up dust as they headed towards the bank.

Jenks shouted at the sheriff: "Anybody wasn't at church?"

The sheriff shook his head. Everyone in town had been to services. The horses kicked up spurts of alkali-dust as they turned onto Main Street.

When they reached the bank, they saw the front door hanging crazily on one hinge. The kid stood in the doorway, .45's in hand, and covered the three men. The bandana had slipped away from his face, revealing soot-covered, but handsome, youthful features.

"All right, *laumen*. Get down. But the first one as reaches for his gun, I'll blow him fulla holes."

The men put their hands over their heads, and slid to the ground.

"He's only a kid," whispered Tal.

"Yeah," sighed the sheriff, "another button starting on the owlhoot trail."

The youth came up and relieved them of their guns.

"What's your name, Kid?" asked the sheriff.

"None of your nosey business!"

"—But you're so young to be robbing like this."

The kid jabbed the barrel of his forty-five into the sheriff's stomach. "Are you going to shut-up?"

"Let him be, Sheriff. We'll get him later. We always do."

"Nobody gets me!" snarled the young owlhooter. "I'll never—"

More of the townspeople were riding in now. He scooped up the three guns from the ground and backed into the Hotel. "Don't any of you make a move to follow me, or I'll kill you. Don't—" Then he turned and ran inside.

Tal started to head in after him, but the sheriff put a hand on his arm.

"Don't. The kid's gun-crazy. Too many legends of famous gunmen; not enough of great men siding the law. Maybe I can talk him out of it—"

"But sheriff—"

The other men were crowding around now, trying to find out what had happened. The story spread quickly, and they were outraged.

"Get him and string 'im up!"

"Set fire to the hotel if we have'tuh—"

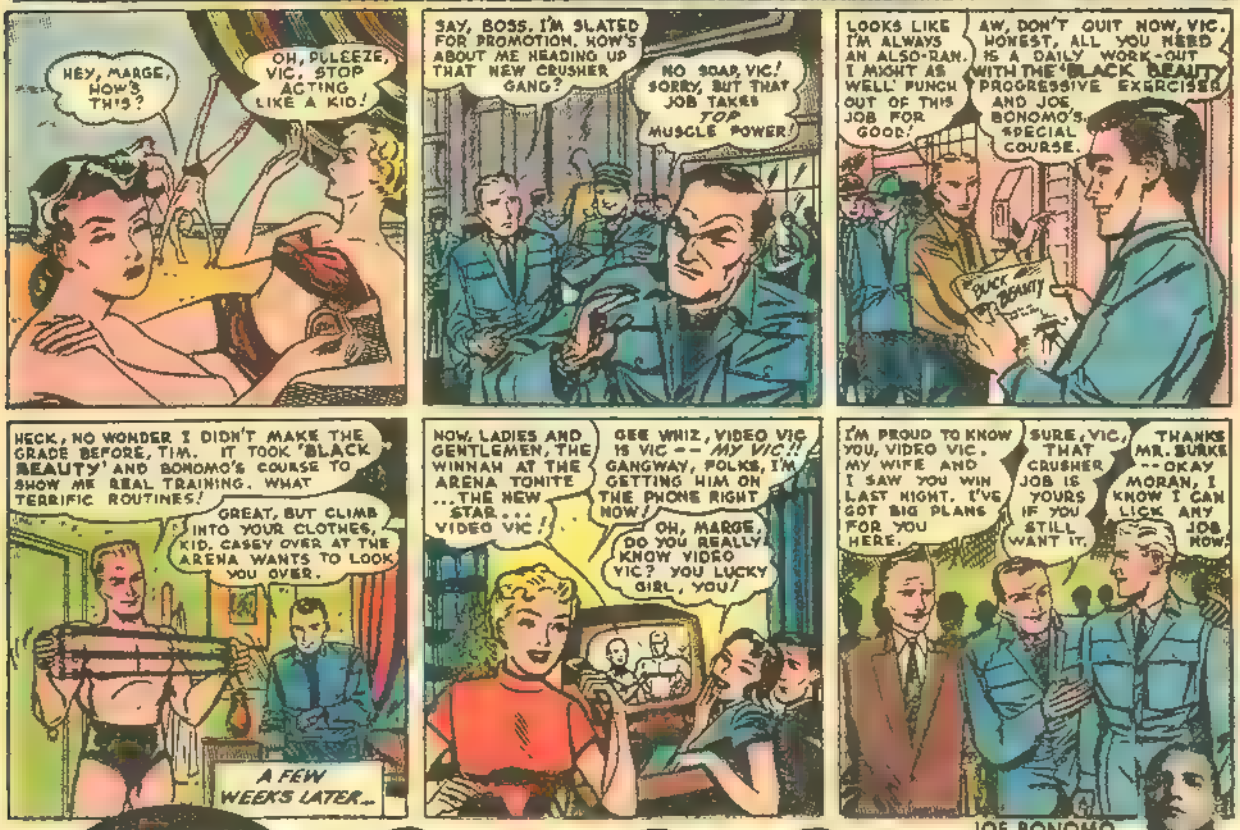
"Rush him—"

The sheriff held up his hand for quiet. His eyes scanned the crowd as he spoke: "No. I want to take him peaceably if I can. He's only a kid. I want to give him a break. There's no such thing as a kid who's really bad."

He argued with the townspeople, and then finally—with

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY

How "BLACK BEAUTY" TURNS AN ALSO-RAN into "VIDEO VIC!"


HEY, MARGE, HOW'S THIS?
OH, PLEEEZE, VIC, STOP ACTING LIKE A KID!
SAY, BOSS, I'M SLATED FOR PROMOTION. HOW'S ABOUT ME HEADING UP THAT NEW CRUSHER GANG?
NO SOAP, VIC! SORRY, BUT THAT JOB TAKES TOP MUSCLE POWER!
LOOKS LIKE I'M ALWAYS AN ALSO-RAN. I MIGHT AS WELL PUNCH OUT OF THIS JOB FOR GOOD!
AW, DON'T QUIT NOW, VIC. HONEST, ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY WORK-OUT WITH THE "BLACK BEAUTY" PROGRESSIVE EXERCISER AND JOE BONOMO'S SPECIAL COURSE.
BLACK BEAUTY
HECK, NO WONDER I DIDN'T MAKE THE GRADE BEFORE, TIM. IT TOOK "BLACK BEAUTY" AND BONOMO'S COURSE TO SHOW ME REAL TRAINING. WHAT TERRIFIC ROUTINES!
GREAT, BUT CLIMB INTO YOUR CLOTHES, KID. CASEY OVER AT THE ARENA WANTS TO LOOK YOU OVER.
A FEW WEEKS LATER...
NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE WINNAH AT THE ARENA TONITE ...THE NEW STAR... VIDEO VIC!
GEE WHIZ, VIDEO VIC IS VIC -- MY VIC!! GANGWAY, FOLKS, I'M GETTING HIM ON THE PHONE RIGHT NOW!
OH, MARGE, DO YOU REALLY KNOW VIDEO VIC? YOU LUCKY GIRL, YOU!
I'M PROUD TO KNOW YOU, VIDEO VIC. MY WIFE AND I SAW YOU WIN LAST NIGHT. I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR YOU HERE.
SURE, VIC, THAT CRUSHER JOB IS YOURS IF YOU STILL WANT IT.
THANKS MR. BURKE -- OKAY MORAN, I KNOW I CAN LICK ANY JOB NOW.

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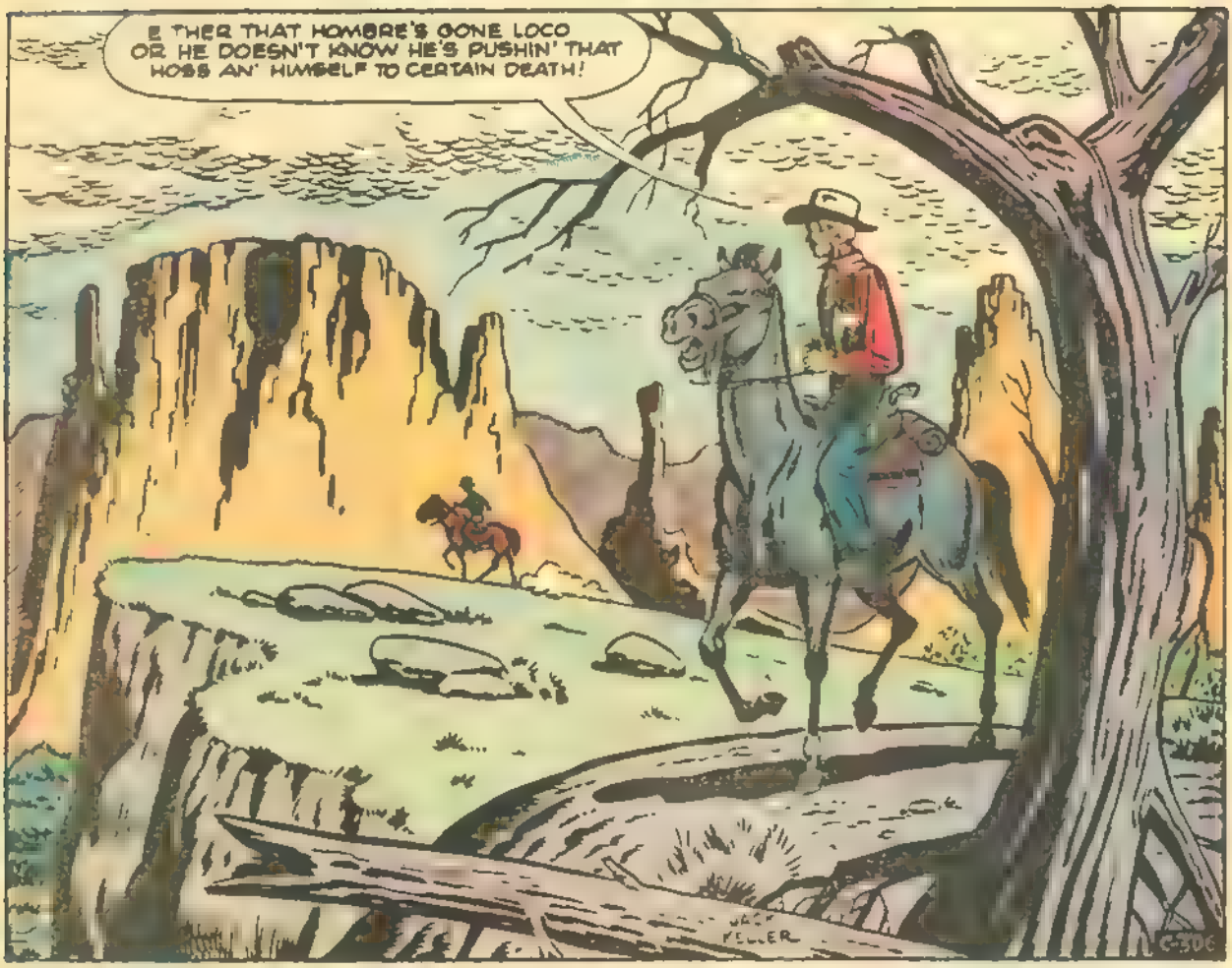
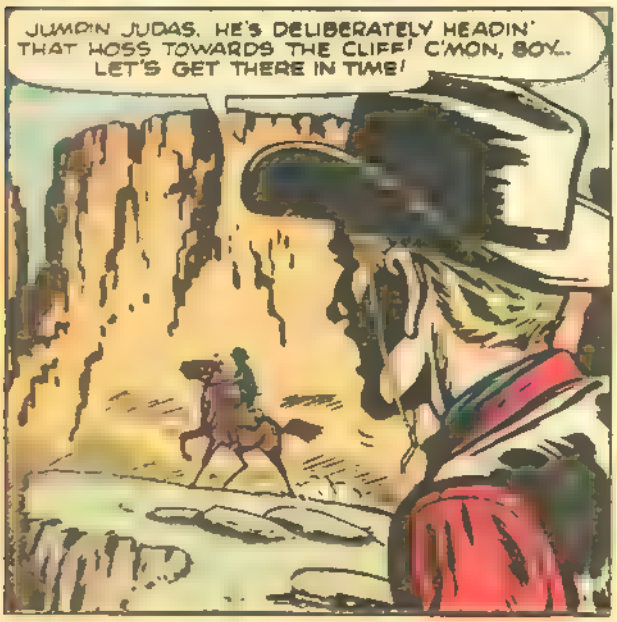
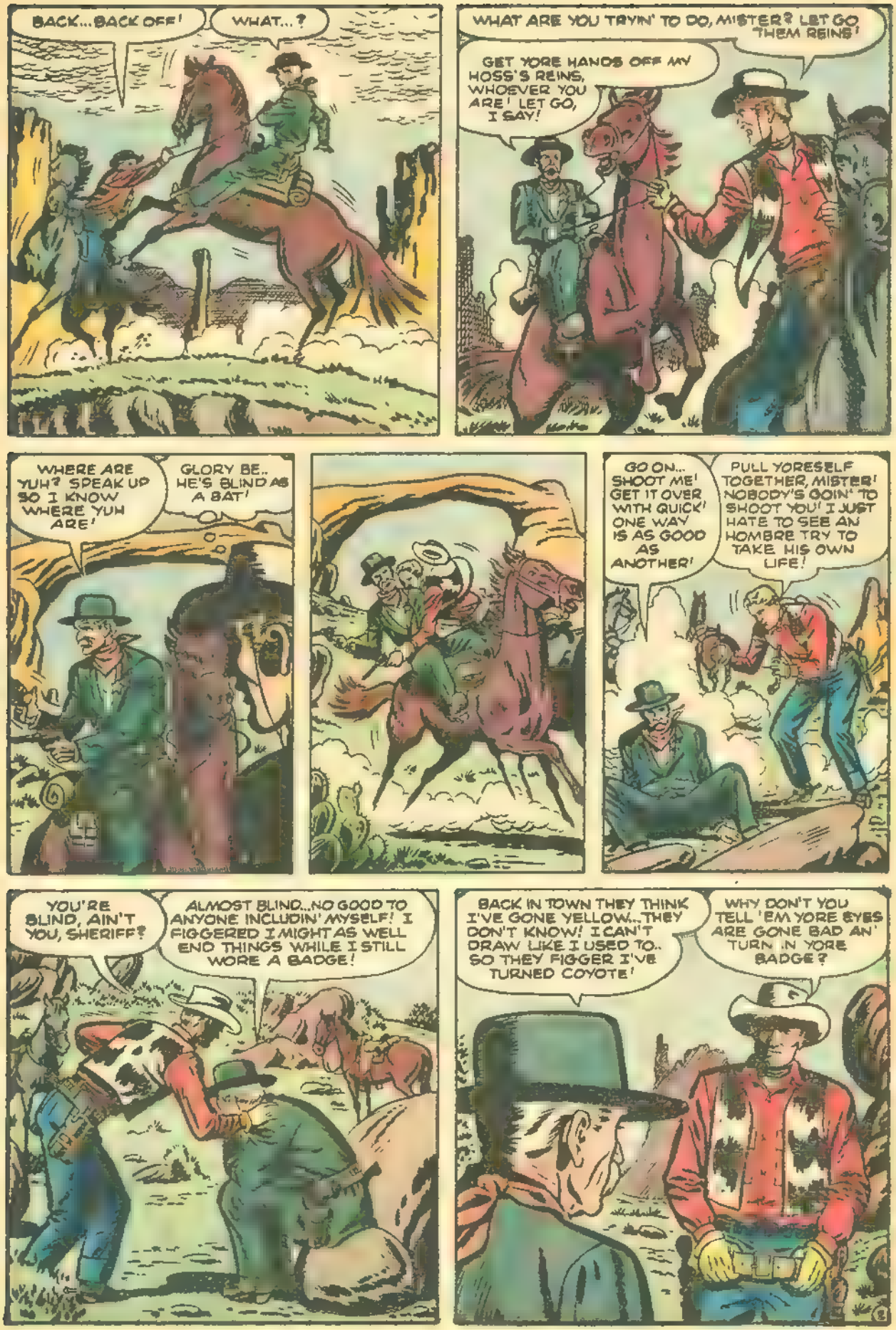
KID COLT OUTLAW






BACK... BACK OFF!
WHAT...?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO DO, MISTER? LET GO 'THEM REINS!
GET YORE HANDS OFF MY HOSS'S REINS, WHOEVER YOU ARE! LET GO, I SAY!
WHERE ARE YUH? SPEAK UP SO I KNOW WHERE YUH ARE!
GLORY BE.. HE'S BLIND AS A BAT!
GO ON... SHOOT ME! GET IT OVER WITH QUICK! ONE WAY IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER!
PULL YORESELF TOGETHER, MISTER! NOBODY'S GOIN' TO SHOOT YOU! I JUST HATE TO SEE AN HOMBRE TRY TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE!
YOU'RE BLIND, AIN'T YOU, SHERIFF?
ALMOST BLIND...NO GOOD TO ANYONE INCLUDIN' MYSELF! I FIGGERED I MIGHT AS WELL END THINGS WHILE I STILL WORE A BADGE!
BACK IN TOWN THEY THINK I'VE GONE YELLOW...THEY DON'T KNOW! I CAN'T DRAW LIKE I USED TO.. SO THEY FIGGER I'VE TURNED COYOTE!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL 'EM YORE EYES ARE GONE BAD AN' TURN IN YORE BADGE?

BLACKJACK SHERMAN AN' HIS KILLERS ARE IN TOWN! IF THEY EVEN SUSPECTED MY SIGHT WAS GONE, THE TOWN WOULD BE A SHAMBLES BY SUNSET!
SO YOU DECIDED TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT! NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME! I GOT AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK! FIRST OFF, LET'S INTRODUCE EACH OTHER! MY NAME'S COLT... KID COLT...
LATE THAT SAME AFTERNOON...
SIZZLIN' STETSONS! IT'S KID COLT! THAR'S GOIN' TO BE FIREWORKS POPPIN' IN NO TIME AT ALL!
YOU AIN'T JUST WHISTLIN', AMIGO! WITH BLACKJACK SHERMAN INSIDE...AN' KID COLT ABOUT TO GO IN, THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EXPLOSION! I'LL SEE YOU MANANA!
BIRD CAGE SALOON
THAR AIN'T A TWO-GUN TOTER IN THE WHOLE TERRITORY GOT BRASS ENOUGH TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE...AN' THAT GOES FER THE MEALY-MOUTHED SHERIFF OF THIS TOWN!
NOW THAR'S A RANNY SPORTIN' A PAIR OF .45'S... AN' I'LL BET A GALLON OF RED-EYE HIS KNEES WOULD SHAKE IF HE HAD TO DRAW 'EM!
SHHHHH! THAT AIN'T NO ORDINARY GUNNER...THAT'S KID COLT!
KID COLT? WHY, THAT NAME GETS SPIT ON AN' ROLLED IN DIRT WHAR I COME FROM! HE'S JUST A PICAYUNE HOMBRE TOTIN' A BIG REPUTATION!
AN' YO'RE A BIG PIGSTICKER WITH THE SMELL OF A GARBAGE-EATIN' BUZZARD!
THUD!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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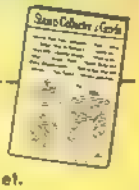

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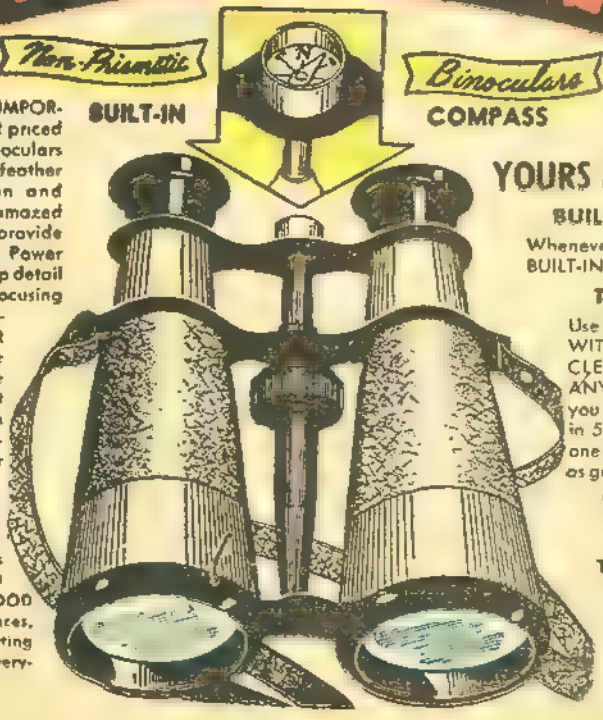

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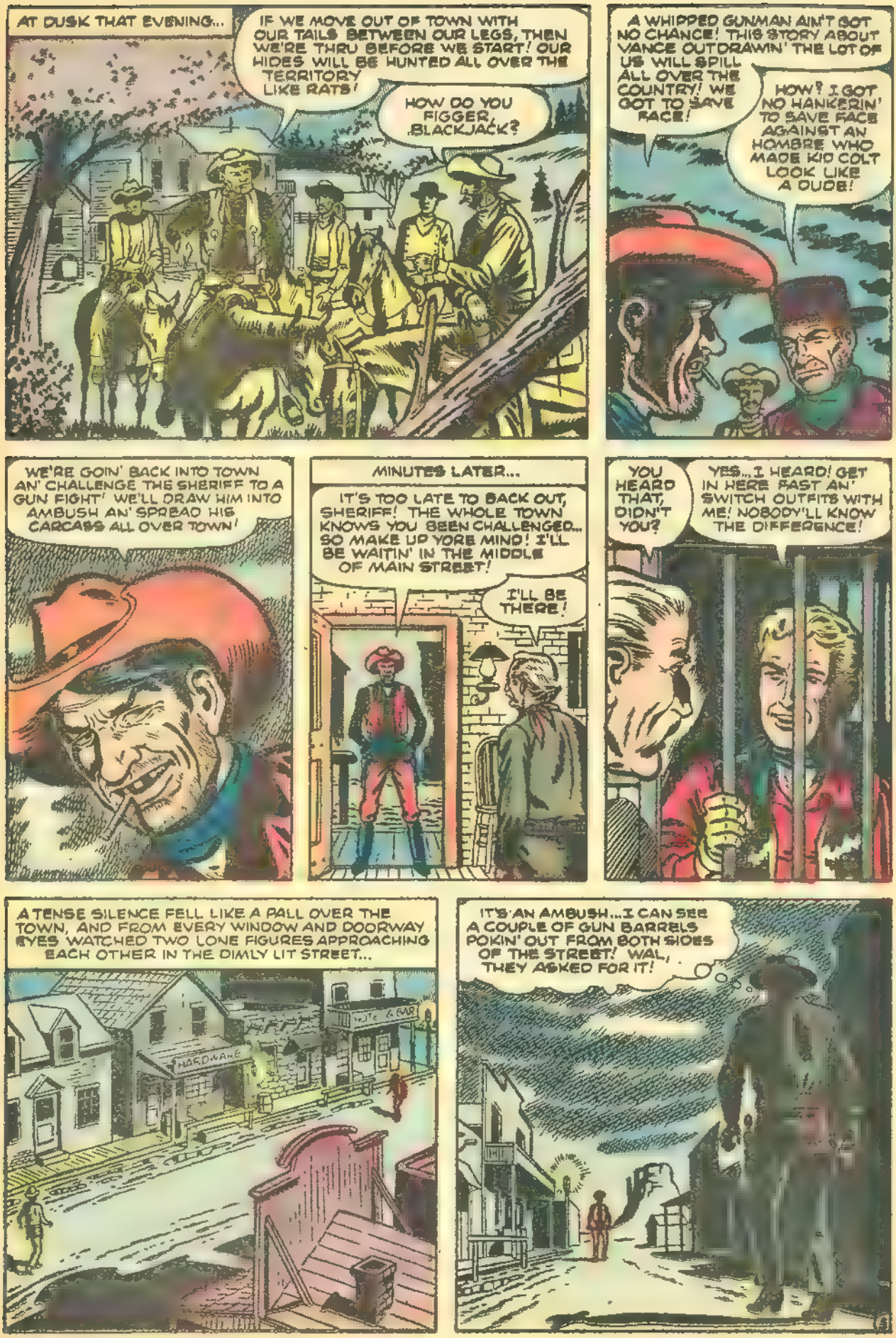
THERE'S ONLY ONE HOMBRE LIVIN' WHO EVER OUTGUNNED ME...AN' HE'S A LONG WAY WEST OF PECOS, I'VE HEARD!
THAT'S WHAR YO'RE WRONG, COLT! I'M RIGHT HERE!
H...HAP VANCE! ARE Y...YOU SHERIFF OF TH...THIS T...TOWN?
I RUN A CLEAN TOWN, COLT...NO GUN-PLAY AN' NO KILLINGS! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO DRAW OR TAKE YOU UNDER ARREST!
I KNOW B...BETTER THAN TO DRAW AGIN YORE GUNS, SHERIFF! I'LL GO QUIET!
NOW, AS FOR YOU, YOU PACK OF MANGY SADDLE WOLVES... DRAW OR GET OUT OF TOWN!
OKAY...JUST T...TAKE IT EASY, SHERIFF! WE'LL GO QUIET!
WAL, I'LL BE DIPPED IN SHEEP TALLOW! OLE HAP VANCE SHORE [illegible]APED THE CHAPS OFF'N KID COLT!
THIS IS ONE FER THE BOOKS! I NEVER KNOWED SHERIFF VANCE WAS A FAMOUS LEAD SLINGER! IT JUST SHOWS YOU KIN NEVER TELL ABOUT A QUIET HOMBRE!
IT WENT OFF GREAT, KID! I SWEAR I COULDN'T EVEN SEE YOU WHEN I CAME IN' THEY SHORE SWALLOWED THE BAIT!
DON'T BE TOO SURE! BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON BLACKJACK SHERMAN... AN' LEAVE THIS CELL DOOR UNLOCKED IN CASE THERE'S TROUBLE!


AT DUSK THAT EVENING...
IF WE MOVE OUT OF TOWN WITH OUR TAILS BETWEEN OUR LEGS, THEN WE'RE THRU BEFORE WE START! OUR HIDES WILL BE HUNTED ALL OVER THE TERRITORY LIKE RATS!
HOW DO YOU FIGGER, BLACKJACK?
A WHIPPED GUNMAN AIN'T GOT NO CHANCE! THIS STORY ABOUT VANCE OUTDRAWIN' THE LOT OF US WILL SPILL ALL OVER THE COUNTRY! WE GOT TO SAVE FACE!
HOW? I GOT NO HANKERIN' TO SAVE FACE AGAINST AN HOMBRE WHO MADE KID COLT LOOK LIKE A DUDE!
WE'RE GOIN' BACK INTO TOWN AN' CHALLENGE THE SHERIFF TO A GUN FIGHT! WE'LL DRAW HIM INTO AMBUSH AN' SPREAD HIS CARCASS ALL OVER TOWN!
MINUTES LATER...
IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT, SHERIFF! THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS YOU BEEN CHALLENGED... SO MAKE UP YORE MIND! I'LL BE WAITIN' IN THE MIDDLE OF MAIN STREET!
I'LL BE THERE!
YOU HEARD THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
YES... I HEARD! GET IN HERE FAST AN' SWITCH OUTFITS WITH ME! NOBODY'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!
A TENSE SILENCE FELL LIKE A PALL OVER THE TOWN, AND FROM EVERY WINDOW AND DOORWAY EYES WATCHED TWO LONE FIGURES APPROACHING EACH OTHER IN THE DIMLY LIT STREET...
HARDWARE
WINE & BAR
IT'S AN AMBUSH... I CAN SEE A COUPLE OF GUN BARRELS POKIN' OUT FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET! WAL, THEY ASKED FOR IT!

AND THEN THE SILENCE WAS SHATTERED AND THE NIGHT STREAKED WITH SPITTING TONGUES OF ORANGE FLAME..
CRACK!
BANG!
BWHAM!
HARDWARE
WHRAM!
WHRAM!
WHRAM!
WHRAM!
BANG!
CRACK!
WHAM!
BANG!
FOR THREE SHORT MINUTES THE BATTLE RAGED... WAVING FROM ONE SIDE OF THE STREET TO THE OTHER AS THE OUTLAW SMOKED OUT HIS VICTIMS WITH LAEDEN DEATH...
WHRAM!
WHRAM!
SWITCH FAST, SHERIFF! THE FOLKS WILL BE WAITIN' FOR YOU OUTSIDE!
THANKS, KID! I CAN TELL THEM THE WHOLE TRUTH! I'M PROUD TO SAY YOU'RE MY FRIEND!
THE TOWNSPEOPLE EMERGED, ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THE MAN THEY HAD MISJUDGED...AND NOW THE SHERIFF COULD RETIRE WITH HONOR...
I'M RESIGNIN'... BUT BEFORE I DO...THERE'S SOMETHIN' I WANT TO TELL YOU FOLKS!
THE END
6

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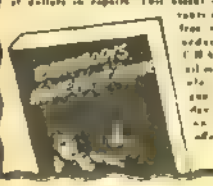

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some of the women on his side—he talked them into giving him a chance to take the young bank-robber alive.

He walked into the center of the street.

"Hey, younker!"

A voice answered him from a second-story window. "Who you calling younker? Don't take another step or I'll let you have it!"

"I'm dropping my gunbelt here in the street, and then I'm coming in to take you to the jailhouse. You'll get off light, if you help me."

"Don't be funny. I warn you—"

"This is the only way, son. You did something bad, and you got to pay for it. It's better than getting killed. I'm thinking of you."

"Stay where you are!"

The sheriff unbuckled his gunbelt and held it up for the kid to see. Then he dropped it on the wheel-rutted Main Street. It was a gesture, but he knew it would impress the kid. He took two steps forward.

"Pow!"

A .45 slug puffed up dust at the lawman's feet. He ignored it and continued to walk. He said in a loud voice: "I know a brave buck like you wouldn't kill an unarmed man. I'm coming in."

The crowd grew restless.

"Sheriff, he'll kill you. He's gun crazy."

Tal moved forward. "Let me go in with you, Chief—"

Another bullet from the hotel window knocked the hat from Tal's head. He ducked back into the crowd, shaking his fist at the window. One of the men drew his .45.

"I'll get the crazy brat—"

"No!" snapped the sheriff. "You agreed to let me take him. So back up and give me a chance."

The crowd growled but subsided.

The sheriff continued his slow, death-like walk across the street. There was no further sound from the window. When he was in front of the hotel, out of sight of the window, he stopped for a moment, leaned

against a post and wiped the sweat from his brow with his large red bandana. The crowd heaved an audible sigh.

Now would be the real test. He walked through the hotel lobby, swiftly, and took the steps two at a time until he reached the landing of the first floor. Would the crazy unfortunate listen to reason? Or would he go blasting his way to an early grave in boothill—taking the sheriff with him. The lawman knew that if he were harmed Jenks and Tal and the others would tear the boy limb from limb. He couldn't fail. If he did, it meant that there was also something wrong on his side. Reason *had* to be better than guns.

"Don't come any nearer!"

The boy was in Joe Sheffield's room at the end of the corridor. The door was open. The sheriff moved forward cautiously.

"Listen to me son—" He spoke, in his soft voice. Pleading. Cajoling. Reasoning. Then, after about ten minutes, he said. I'm unarmed, and I'm coming through that door. I'm walking into that room.

No answer.

The lawman of Rimrock took a deep breath and stepped into the room.

* * *

Several minutes later he came walking out of the hotel. He had the young outlaw's gunbelt slung over his elbow, and his arm was on the boy's shoulder.

"Take him to the jailhouse. He won't cause you any trouble."

As Jenks moved away with the youth, the crowd burst out with enthusiastic praise of the star-toter's courage and wisdom. And the sheriff of Rimrock smiled inwardly. He figured there was no need to tell them, that if the big mirror over the mantelpiece in Sheffield's room hadn't shown him that the kid didn't have a gun trained on the doorway, he might never have crossed that threshold. But the young feller was alive, and that was what counted. Wasn't it?

THE END

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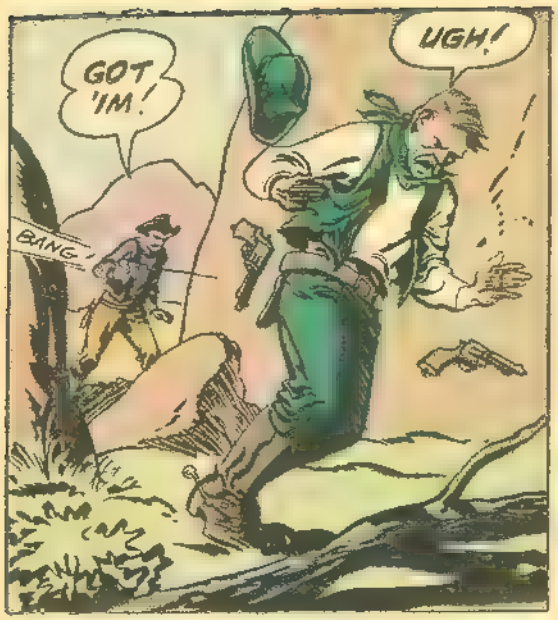
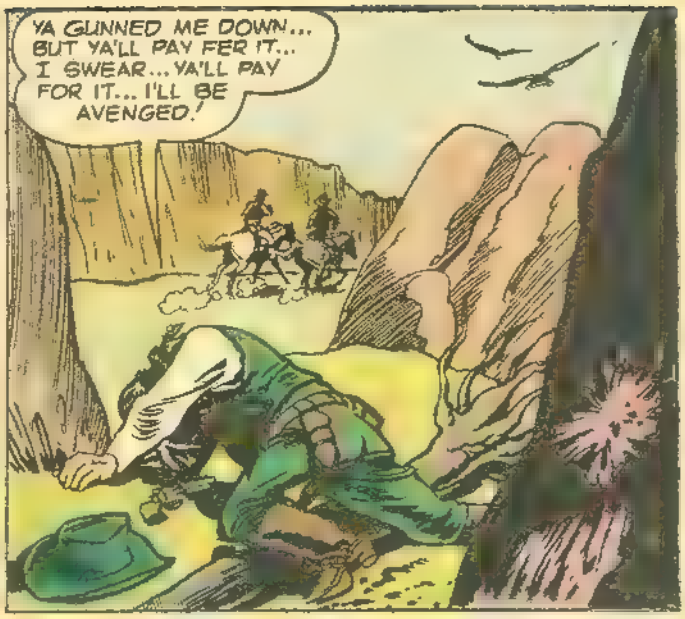
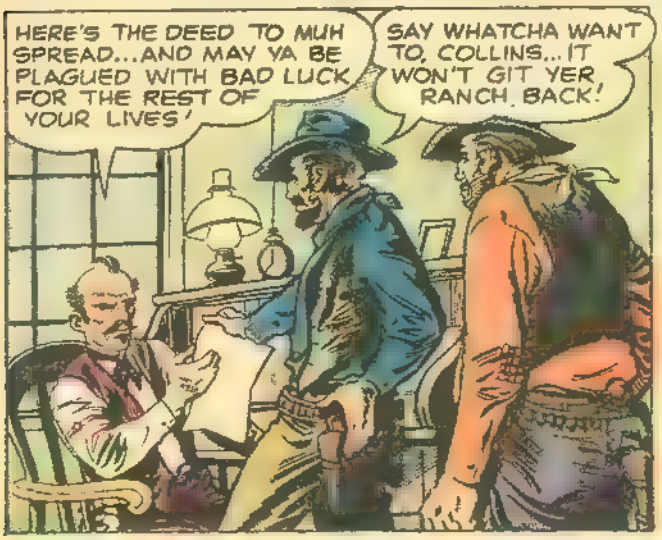
THE AVENGER

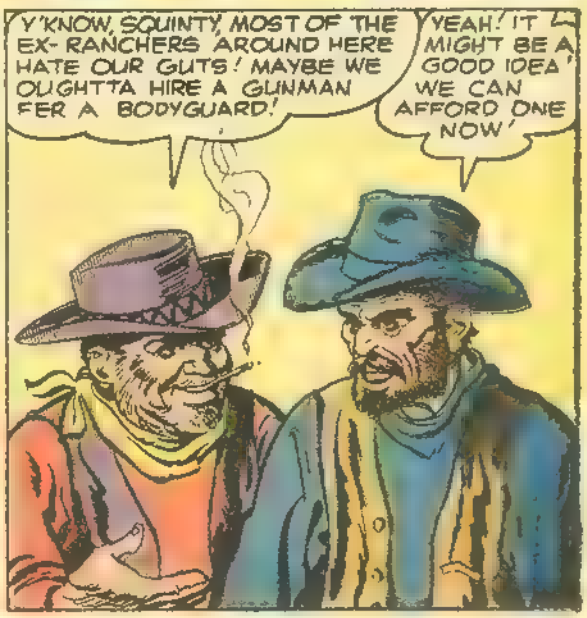
IT ALL STARTED WITH A GUN-FIGHT IN THE SMOKY HILLS...
SAVE YER BREATH, DORNE YA'LL NEED IT FER PRAYIN'
ONCE YOU'RE DEAD, THE OTHER RANCHERS WILL SELL OUT TO US AT OUR OWN PRICE!
YA DOUBLED-DYED, DIRTY BUSHWHACKERS! YA AIN'T GONNA GUN ME DOWN LIKE YA DID ALL THE OTHER HONEST RANCHERS IN THESE PARTS!
AL CARREÑO
C325
I AIN'T DEAD YET, COYOTES!
BANG! BANG!
JUST LIKE ALL YOU THIEVIN' AMBUSHERS... YER AFRAID TO FACE A MAN WITH A GUN!



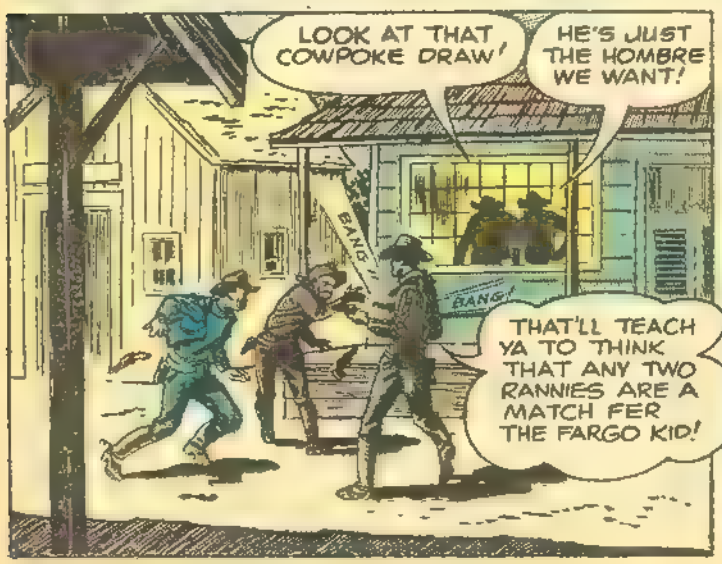


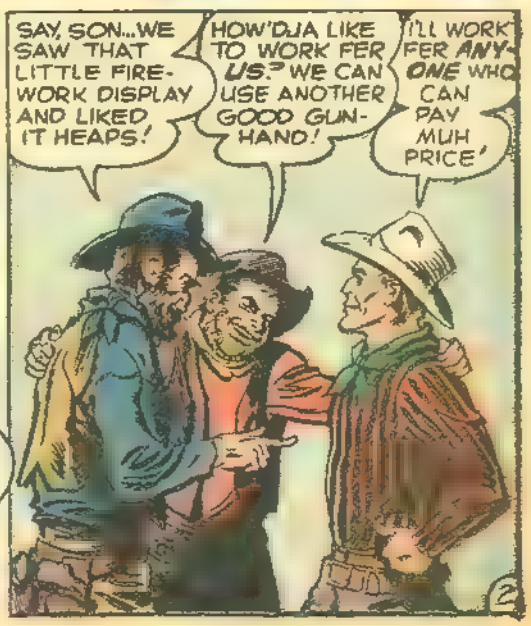
WITH THE DEATH OF FRANK DORNE, THE TWO KILLERS SUCCEEDED IN THEIR PLAN TO TERRORIZE THE REMAINING RANCHERS OF SMOKY HILLS TO SELL OUT.


HERE'S THE DEED TO MUH SPREAD... AND MAY YA BE PLAGUED WITH BAD LUCK FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES!
SAY WHATCHA WANT TO, COLLINS... IT WON'T GIT YER RANCH BACK!

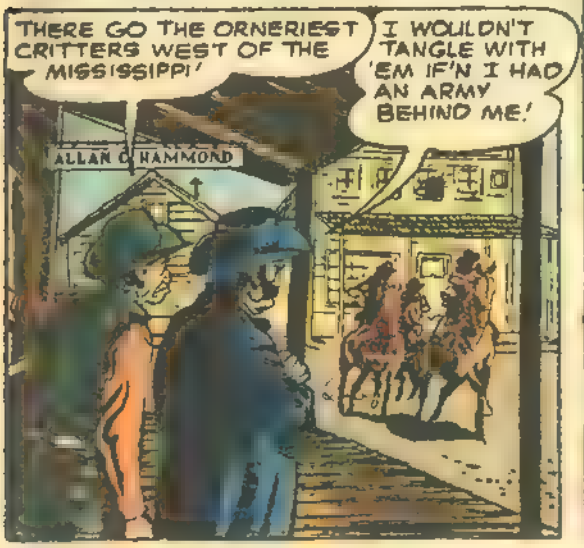

Y'KNOW, SQUINTY, MOST OF THE EX-RANCHERS AROUND HERE HATE OUR GUTS! MAYBE WE OUGHTTA HIRE A GUNMAN FER A BODYGUARD!
YEAH! IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA! WE CAN AFFORD ONE NOW!

AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A PROSPECT FOR THE JOB APPEARED IN TOWN THAT VERY AFTERNOON...

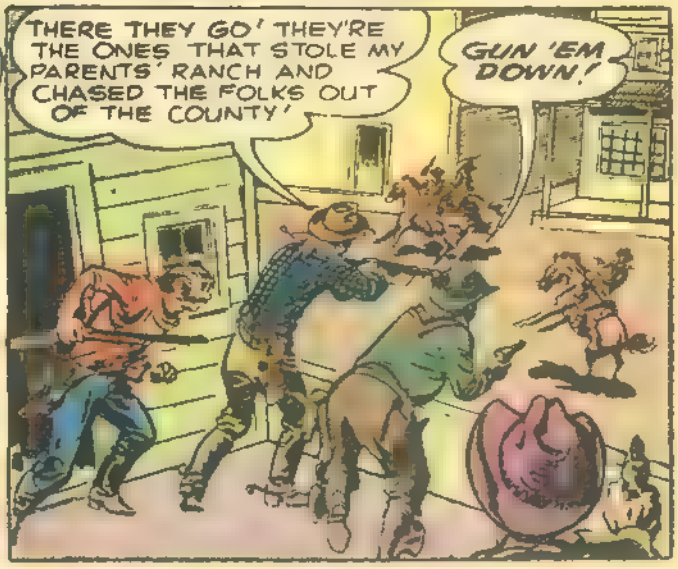

LOOK AT THAT COWPOKE DRAW!
HE'S JUST THE HOMBRE WE WANT!
BANG!
BANG!
THAT'LL TEACH YA TO THINK THAT ANY TWO RANNIES ARE A MATCH FER THE FARGO KID!

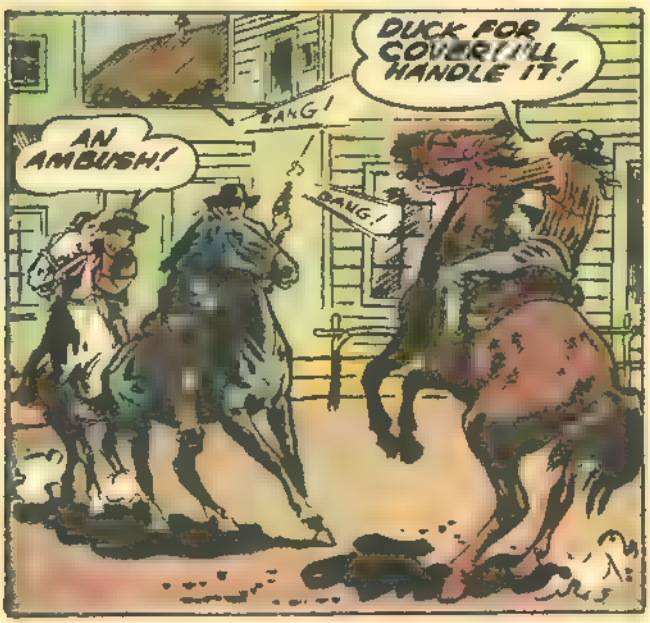

SAY, SON... WE SAW THAT LITTLE FIRE-WORK DISPLAY AND LIKED IT HEAPS!
HOW'DJA LIKE TO WORK FER US? WE CAN USE ANOTHER GOOD GUN-HAND!
I'LL WORK FER ANY-ONE WHO CAN PAY MUH PRICE!
2

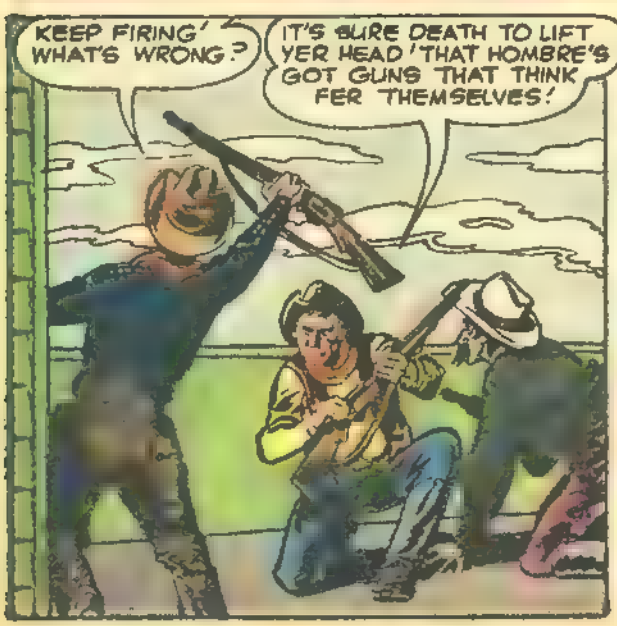
AND SO, THE FARGO KID JOINED FORCES WITH SQUINTY NOLAN AND JEB HAWKINS TO FORM THE MOST FEARED THREESOME IN SMOKY HILLS...

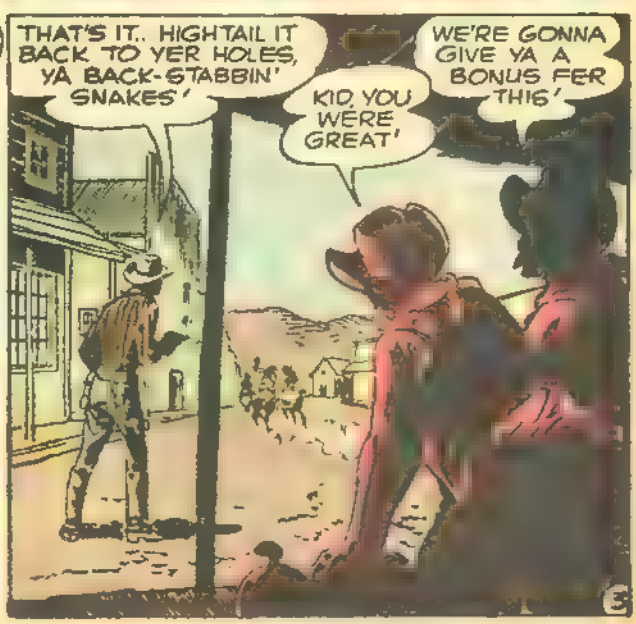

THERE GO THE ORNERIEST CRITTERS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI!
I WOULDN'T TANGLE WITH 'EM IF'N I HAD AN ARMY BEHIND ME!
ALLAN C. HAMMOND

BUT SOME ONLOOKERS WERE MORE INTERESTED IN REVENGE THAN SAFETY...









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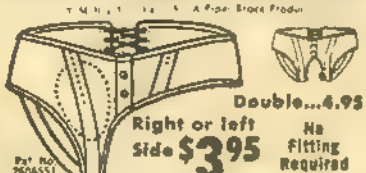

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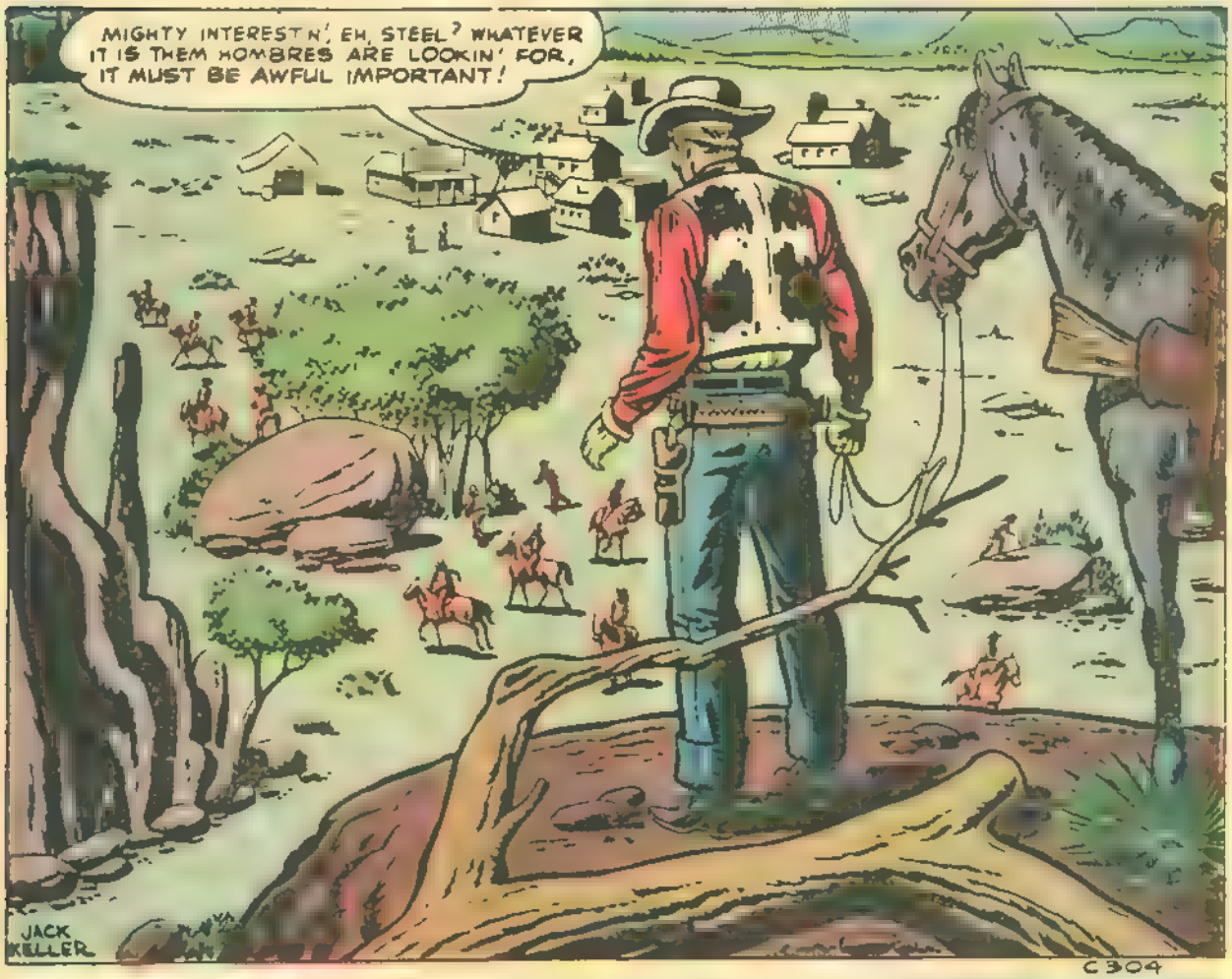
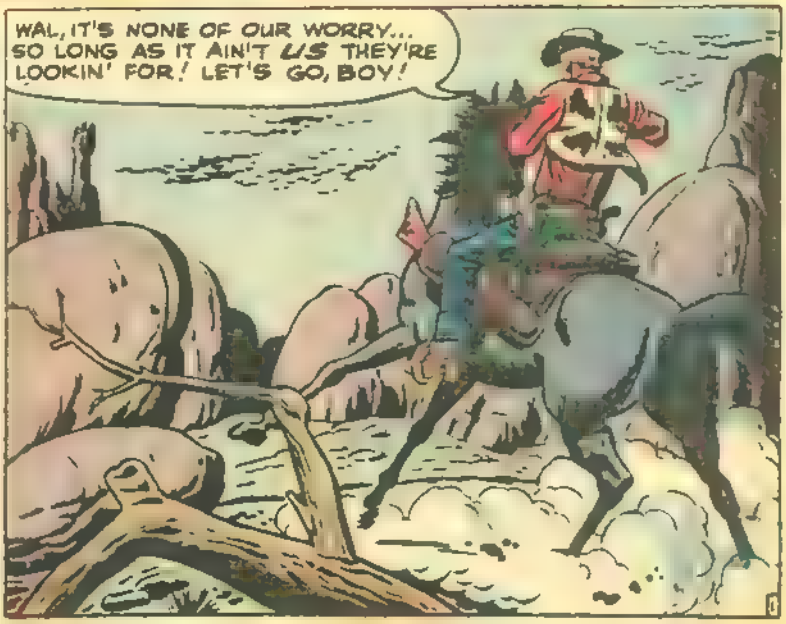
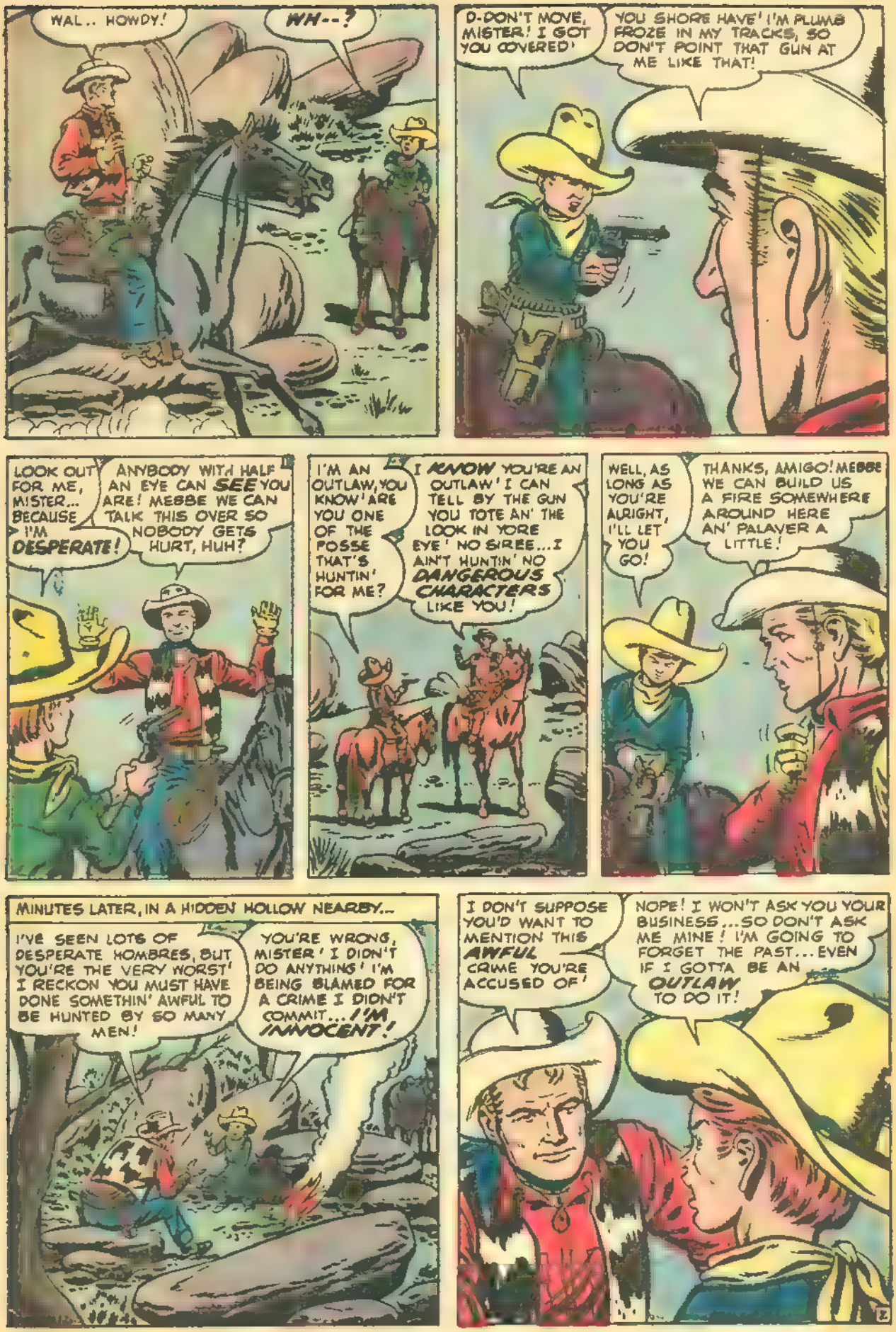
YA NEVER TOLD ME HOW COME YER SO HATED IN THIS TOWN!
IT'S A LONG STORY...
BUT I'LL MAKE IT SHORT!
IN ORDER TO SCARE THE RANCHERS INTO SELLIN' US THEIR SPREADS, WE HADDA MURDER AN HOMBRE NAMED DORNE!
FRANK DORNE?
YEAH! YA KNOW HIM?
TIGER CLAW
YEAH...
WHATCHA DOIN', KID?
BANG!
HE WUZ MY FATHER!
BANG!
IT TOOK A HEAP OF DOIN', DAD... BUT YER AVENGED NOW!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WESTERN THRILLS LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

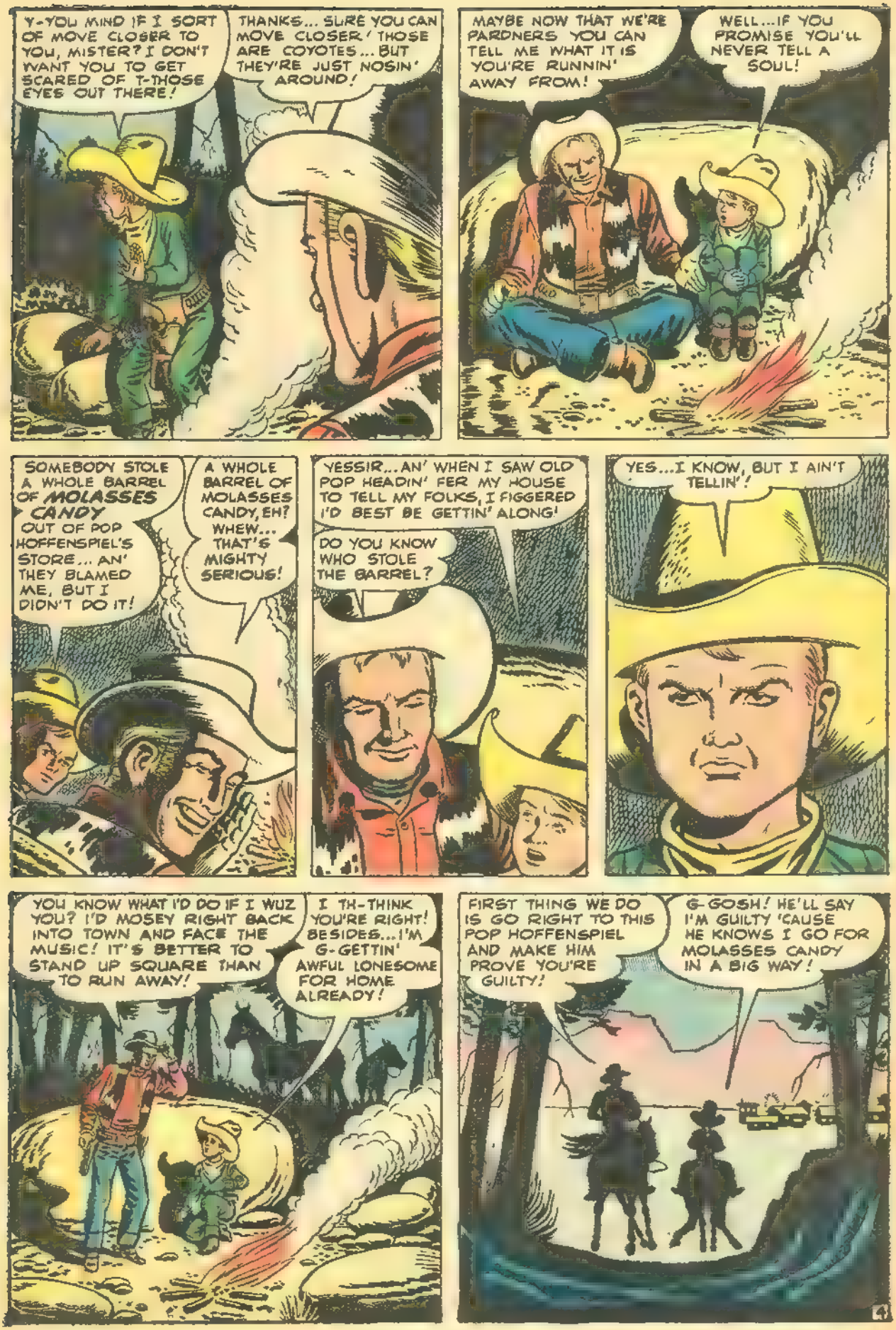
KID COLT OUTLAW



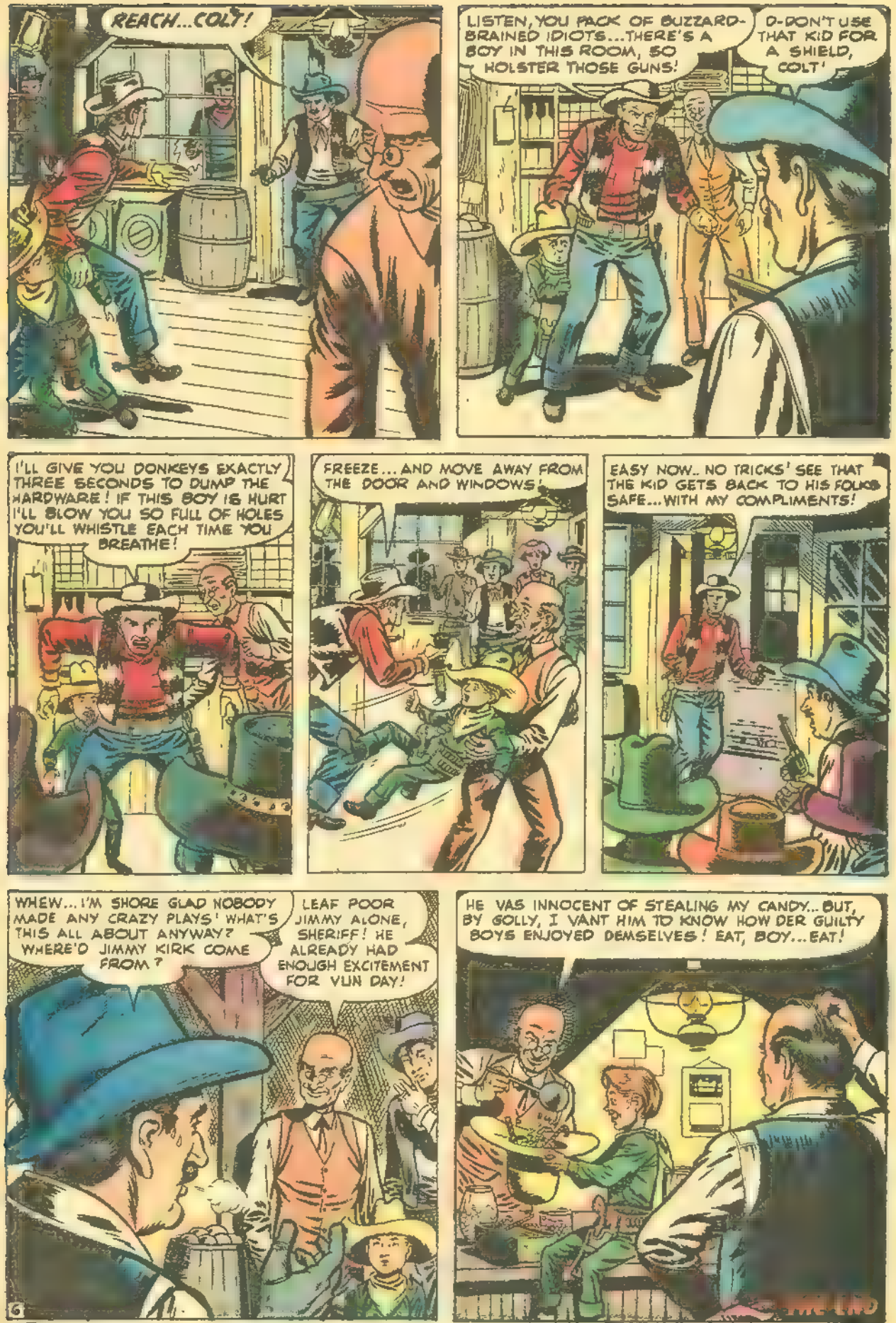



WAL.. HOWDY!
WH--?
D-DON'T MOVE, MISTER! I GOT YOU COVERED!
YOU SHORE HAVE! I'M PLUMB FROZE IN MY TRACKS, SO DON'T POINT THAT GUN AT ME LIKE THAT!
LOOK OUT FOR ME, MISTER... BECAUSE I'M DESPERATE!
ANYBODY WITH HALF AN EYE CAN SEE YOU ARE! MEBBE WE CAN TALK THIS OVER SO NOBODY GETS HURT, HUH?
I'M AN OUTLAW, YOU KNOW! ARE YOU ONE OF THE POSSE THAT'S HUNTIN' FOR ME?
I KNOW YOU'RE AN OUTLAW! I CAN TELL BY THE GUN YOU TOTE AN' THE LOOK IN YORE EYE! NO SIREE... I AIN'T HUNTIN' NO DANGEROUS CHARACTERS LIKE YOU!
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALRIGHT, I'LL LET YOU GO!
THANKS, AMIGO! MEBBE WE CAN BUILD US A FIRE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE AN' PALAVER A LITTLE!
MINUTES LATER, IN A HIDDEN HOLLOW NEARBY...
I'VE SEEN LOTS OF DESPERATE HOMBRES, BUT YOU'RE THE VERY WORST! I RECKON YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHIN' AWFUL TO BE HUNTED BY SO MANY MEN!
YOU'RE WRONG, MISTER! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I'M BEING BLAMED FOR A CRIME I DIDN'T COMMIT... I'M INNOCENT!
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D WANT TO MENTION THIS AWFUL CRIME YOU'RE ACCUSED OF!
NOPE! I WON'T ASK YOU YOUR BUSINESS... SO DON'T ASK ME MINE! I'M GOING TO FORGET THE PAST... EVEN IF I GOTTA BE AN OUTLAW TO DO IT!

RECKON YOU'RE GETTIN' READY TO MOSEY ALONG, HUH?
YEP' GOTTA HIT THE TRAIL... AN' I'M NEVER COMIN' BACK THIS WAY AGAIN!
IT GETS MIGHTY LONESOME IN THESE PARTS... ESPECIALLY AFTER DARK!
D-DOES IT? I GUESS THERE'S LOTS OF WOLVES AN' M-MOUNTAIN LIONS ROAMING AROUND AT N-NIGHT, HUH, MISTER?
MOUNTAIN LIONS ISN'T ALL! WHEN ONE OF THESE BIG GRIZZLY BEARS GOES ON A RAMPAGE, A MAN'S GOT TO HAVE A STRONG HEART AN' FAST GUNS!
Y-YES,..I R-RECKON Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!
S-SAY, MISTER...IF Y-YOU'RE SCARED WHY DON'T Y-YOU JOIN UP WITH M-ME? I'D BE G-GLAD TO HAVE YOUR COMPANY!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! WAIT TILL I PUT OUT THIS FIRE AND I'LL BE ALONG WITH YOU!
AS DUSK FALLS OVER THE COUNTRY...
HERE'S A GOOD SPOT TO HOLE UP FOR THE NIGHT! I GOT ENOUGH FOOD SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO AFTER AN ANTELOPE RIGHT AWAY!
SWELL! OF COURSE, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH I'D BE GLAD TO GO... IN THE MORNING...
W-WHAT'S TH-THAT?
JUST A PACK OF WOLVES LOOKIN' FER A MEAL!
OWOOOO!
I GUESS YOUR FOLKS AIN'T TOO WORRIED ABOUT YOU BEIN' GONE AN' SUCH!
I T-THINK THEY ARE...AN' I WISH I WAS H-HOME RIGHT NOW!


Y-YOU MIND IF I SORT OF MOVE CLOSER TO YOU, MISTER? I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET SCARED OF T-THOSE EYES OUT THERE!
THANKS... SURE YOU CAN MOVE CLOSER! THOSE ARE COYOTES... BUT THEY'RE JUST NOSIN' AROUND!
MAYBE NOW THAT WE'RE PARDNERS YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU'RE RUNNIN' AWAY FROM!
WELL... IF YOU PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER TELL A SOUL!
SOMEBODY STOLE A WHOLE BARREL OF MOLASSES CANDY OUT OF POP HOFFENSPIEL'S STORE... AN' THEY BLAMED ME, BUT I DIDN'T DO IT!
A WHOLE BARREL OF MOLASSES CANDY, EH? WHEW... THAT'S MIGHTY SERIOUS!
YESSIR... AN' WHEN I SAW OLD POP HEADIN' FER MY HOUSE TO TELL MY FOLKS, I FIGGERED I'D BEST BE GETTIN' ALONG!
DO YOU KNOW WHO STOLE THE BARREL?
YES... I KNOW, BUT I AIN'T TELLIN'!
YOU KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I WUZ YOU? I'D MOSEY RIGHT BACK INTO TOWN AND FACE THE MUSIC! IT'S BETTER TO STAND UP SQUARE THAN TO RUN AWAY!
I TH-THINK YOU'RE RIGHT! BESIDES... I'M G-GETTIN' AWFUL LONESOME FOR HOME ALREADY!
FIRST THING WE DO IS GO RIGHT TO THIS POP HOFFENSPIEL AND MAKE HIM PROVE YOU'RE GUILTY!
G-GOSH! HE'LL SAY I'M GUILTY 'CAUSE HE KNOWS I GO FOR MOLASSES CANDY IN A BIG WAY!
4

JUMPIN' HANNAH! THAR'S YOUNG JIMMY KIRK WITH K-KID COLT!
IT SHORE DIDN'T TAKE LONG FER THAT LI'L OUTLAW TO TEAM UP WITH A BIG ONE! WE BETTER CALL THE SHERIFF BEFORE THEY TREE THIS TOWN!
JIMMY KIRK JUST RODE INTO TOWN... AND HE'S WITH KID COLT!
KID COLT! (GULP!) CALL THE POSSE! ROUND UP MY DEPUTIES! WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
THEY'RE HEADIN' STRAIGHT FER POP HOFFENSPIEL'S STORE!
POP IS PLAYIN' CARDS WITH HALF YORE DEPUTIES IN THERE! THE TOWN'S GOIN' TO BE SHOT UP LIKE A SIEVE!
ACH...HIMMEL! ISS DIS A HOLDUP?
TAKE IT EASY, BOYS! THIS IS JUST A FRIENDLY VISIT TO CLEAR A LITTLE PAL'S NAME!
NOW DON'T GO PULLING GUNS LIKE A PACK OF BLOCKHEADS! MY COMPANERO HERE SAYS HE'S ACCUSED OF STEALIN' CANDY! IS HE ... OR ISN'T HE?
HE WAS...BUT HE AIN'T NOW!
GO HOME, JIMMY... UND SLEEP EASY! VE CAUGHT DER RASCALS A LONG TIME AGO!
H-HOW DID YOU CATCH THEM?
DEY ALL CONFESSED! EVERY VUN OF DEM GOT A GIANT TUMMYACHE... UND PRETTY SOON DEY VASS TELLING DERE MOMMAS UND POPPAS ALL ABOUT IT!


REACH...COLT!
LISTEN, YOU PACK OF BUZZARD-BRAINED IDIOTS...THERE'S A BOY IN THIS ROOM, SO HOLSTER THOSE GUNS!
D-DON'T USE THAT KID FOR A SHIELD, COLT!
I'LL GIVE YOU DONKEYS EXACTLY THREE SECONDS TO DUMP THE HARDWARE! IF THIS BOY IS HURT I'LL BLOW YOU SO FULL OF HOLES YOU'LL WHISTLE EACH TIME YOU BREATHE!
FREEZE... AND MOVE AWAY FROM THE DOOR AND WINDOWS!
EASY NOW.. NO TRICKS! SEE THAT THE KID GETS BACK TO HIS FOLKS SAFE...WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!
WHEW... I'M SHORE GLAD NOBODY MADE ANY CRAZY PLAYS! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY? WHERE'D JIMMY KIRK COME FROM?
LEAF POOR JIMMY ALONE, SHERIFF! HE ALREADY HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR VUN DAY!
HE VAS INNOCENT OF STEALING MY CANDY... BUT, BY GOLLY, I VANT HIM TO KNOW HOW DER GUILTY BOYS ENJOYED DEMSELVES! EAT, BOY... EAT!
THE END
6

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WESTERN THRILLS LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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HARFORD FROCKS, INC.
Dept. K-2105, Cincinnati 25, Ohio

FREE! Mail Coupon Now!

PASTE ON POSTCARD—AND MAIL!

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RUSH ABSOLUTELY FREE the big, valuable Harford Frocks Style Display so I can start quickly getting personal dresses without paying one penny for them, and make extra money in spare time besides.

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